



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Preliminary Report

Location:	Salem, SD	Accident Number:	CEN19LA053
Date & Time:	01/13/2019, 1425 CST	Registration:	N75191
Aircraft:	Piper PA28	Injuries:	1 Fatal
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

On January 13, 2019, about 1425 central standard time, a Piper PA28 181 airplane, N75191, impacted terrain about 6 miles south of Salem, South Dakota. The private pilot, the only person on board, was fatally injured and the airplane was substantially damaged. The airplane was owned and operated by the pilot as a Title 14 Code of Federal Regulations Part 91 personal flight. Day visual meteorological conditions prevailed in the area and no flight plan was filed for the cross-country flight that originated from the Mitchell Municipal Airport (MHE), Mitchell, South Dakota, and was destined for Mary Skie-Lincoln County Airport (Y14), Tea, South Dakota.

The pilot reported to Sioux Falls Approach Control that he was having chest pains and was blacking out. The controller tried to get the pilot to land anywhere. The controller lost radio contact with the airplane about 1425.

According to initial information from the McCook County Sheriff's Office, they were notified by a controller that a man in a small airplane was having a medical emergency and were given an approximate location of the airplane. Search and rescue personnel along with officers from the sheriff's office were dispatched. About 1430, they were notified that air traffic control had lost all communication with the airplane. About 1435, their dispatch received notification that the airplane had been located.

According to Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) records, the pilot held a private pilot certificate with airplane single-engine land and instrument ratings. The pilot held an FAA third class medical certificate, dated October 5, 2016. On the application for that medical certificate, he reported that he had accumulated 2,250 hours of total flight time and had accumulated 50 hours of flight time in the six months before the application. That medical certificate was issued with the following limitation: Must wear corrective lenses.

N75191 was a 1976-model Piper PA28 181, four-place, single-engine, low-wing, fixed tricycle landing gear, semi-monocoque design airplane with serial number 28-7690310. According to maintenance records, the airplane was powered by a normally aspirated, direct drive, air-cooled, horizontally opposed, carburetor equipped, four cylinder, 180-horsepower Lycoming

O-360 engine with serial number L-1039-36A, which drove a two-blade fixed pitch Sensenich propeller.

At 1422, the recorded weather and MHE was: Wind 200° at 13 knots; visibility 10 statute miles; sky condition overcast clouds at 1,500 ft; temperature 1° C; dew point -3° C; altimeter 30.30 inches of mercury.

According to initial information from the McCook County Sheriff's Office, the airplane wreckage was located in a harvested crop field about 30 nautical miles and 108° from MHE. The wreckage was subsequently photographically documented. Review of the sheriff's information and photographs revealed the cockpit of the airplane was crushed. All major components of the airplane can be accounted for in the photographs. The tail of the plane was facing north. A debris field and tracks in the field showed the airplane had made contact with the ground about 600 to 800 ft north of the airplane's resting spot. The total debris field was about 600 ft long 300 ft at the widest part and was cone shaped, getting wider to the south. About 100 ft southeast of the airplane the pilot was found. The airplane wreckage was removed from the scene and was placed in a secure building.

The McCook County Coroner was asked to arrange for an autopsy to be performed on the pilot and to have toxicological samples taken.

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	Piper	Registration:	N75191
Model/Series:	PA28 181	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Amateur Built:	No		
Operator:	On file	Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	KMHE, 1299 ft msl	Observation Time:	1422 CST
Distance from Accident Site:	30 Nautical Miles	Temperature/Dew Point:	1° C / -3° C
Lowest Cloud Condition:		Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:	13 knots / , 200°
Lowest Ceiling:	Overcast / 1500 ft agl	Visibility:	10 Miles
Altimeter Setting:	30.3 inches Hg	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Departure Point:	Mitchell, SD (MHE)	Destination:	Tea, SD (Y14)

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 Fatal	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Passenger Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None
Total Injuries:	1 Fatal	Latitude, Longitude:	43.618611, -97.381111 (est)

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Edward F Malinowski
Additional Participating Persons:	William J Howell; Federal Aviation Administration; Rapid City, SD Jonathon Hirsch; Piper Aircraft; Vero Beach, FL Troy Helgeson; Lycoming Engines; Williamsport, PA
Note:	The NTSB did not travel to the scene of this accident.